THE PACIFIC

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Pac Theo Sem
Reading Room

God of the Open Air.

Thou who hast made thy dwelling fair
With flowers beneath, above with starry lights,
And set thine altars everywhere—
On mountain heights,
In woodlands dim with many a dream,
In valleys bright with springs,
And on the curving capes of every stream,
Thou who has taken to thyself the wings
Of morning to abide
Upon the secret places of the sea,
And on far islands, where the tide
Visits the beauty of untrodden shores,
Waiting for worshipers to come to thee
In thy great out-of-doors!
To thee I turn, to thee I make my prayer,
God of the open air.

—Henry van Dyke.

THE PACIFIC

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2716 Hillegass Ave., Berkeley, Cal.

THE PATH.

"The air for the wing of the sparrow,
The bush for the robin and wren;
But always the path that is narrow
And straight, for the children of men."

We expect to begin next week to issue a sixteen-page paper. The interests of Pacific Coast Congregationalism demand it, and the venture will be made with the confident expectation that the churches will rally to its support as soon as the needs of The Pacific are presented to them. The board of directors desires to co-operate with the committees appointed at the Pacific Coast Congress for the raising of the $10,000 fund, and will issue soon a statement and an appeal which can be used by those committees as may seem best to them.

The Rev. Dr. J. D. Davis of the Doshisha, at Kyoto, Japan, writes to Mr. Tenney of the American Board: "It is needless to say that all our hearts over here have gone out in sympathy and sorrow and admiration at the way you and The Pacific and all our San Francisco friends have been through the earthquake and the fire; and at the magnificent courage which all exhibit. All Japan was moved also, and one compensation for this dire disaster is the binding more closely together of the nations of the world, as each feels for the other's woes and expresses its love and sympathy." Dr. Davis says further: "I have not written anything for The Pacific, as I felt that in its four page compass it could not publish." Dr. Davis has frequently in the past furnished us with interesting letters from Japan, and doubtless will do so in the future. For this as well as for other reasons we are glad to be able to announce that next week we shall begin to issue a sixteen-page paper.

The Rev. William Rader, for ten years pastor of the Third Congregational Church, San Francisco, will preach on Sunday mornings in the Central Theatre on Market street near Eighth. There is no intention, at this time, of organizing a church. The service will be non-sectarian and the simple gospel will be preached. The theater stands in the burnt district on the site of the old Central, destroyed by fire. It is covered with a canvas roof, and has a seating capacity of two thousand. A number of influential people have urged Mr. Rader to hold a down-town service, and the first sermon will be delivered Sunday morning(August 5th. There will be no salary. It is probable that the orchestra will be used in the service. Gospel hymns wil lbe sung and a competent leader will have charge of the music. There is no church in the vicinity. Thousands of men are coming to San Francisco, and the inauguration of such a service in the heart of the city seems wise.

During the year 1905 more persons were welcomed into the fellowship of the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles than into that of any other Congregational church in the United States. The number was 306. The First Congregational Church of Oakland received the next highest number, 246. Following these in order were: The North Church of New York, with 243; Central of Brooklyn, 221; Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn, 208; First of Chelsea, Masachusetts, 187; Washington Street, Toledo, Ohio, 185; Mason City, Iowa, 154. There were sixteen others that received more than a hundred. The First of Pasadena received 99, and the First of Berkeley 90. Among those receiving more than one hundred were the churches at Pomona and Redlands, 114 and 103 respectively. The additions during 1905 make the First Church of Los Angeles the largest Congregational church on the Pacific Coast, its enrollment being 1,580. The First of Oakland has a membership of 1,527. The only Congregational churches in the United States having larger membership than these two are three in Brooklyn: Plymouth, 2,121; Central, 2,165; Tompkins Avenue, 2,654.

The Rev. H. H. Wikoff reported at the Monday meeting of the ministers of San Francisco and vicinity a recent visit made by him in Reno, Nevada, where the Rev. C. R. Mears is in charge of the Congregational church. Mr. Wikoff was the first guest from a distance at the parsonage which was built recently at a cost of $4,500. In his opinion the church in Reno has one of the best and most promising fields outside of those of the leading churches in the large cities on the coast. The organization there has a good-sized church building and Mr. Mears is speaking to large congregations each Sunday. Our church at Reno, the only one of the Congregational order in Nevada, feels the isolation of its location and suffers therefrom. Mr. Wikoff expressed the opinion that the Association of Northern California, with which the church at Reno has relation, could afford for the good that would ensue thereby to hold one of its annual meetings in Reno. The suggestion is one that should have consideration, and The Pacific has pleasure in presenting it for that. Let us go to Reno next year. If not, why not? A meeting there would do the church a great good. And there isn't a church in our Association that could not afford to pay the traveling expenses of the pastor and one delegate. With such a number going a half-fare rate could be had for laymen as well as for ministers. We make these suggestions so that at the meeting in October at San Jose this matter may have such consideration as it might not have if it were to come up without notice. The Association ought to go to Reno next year, if Reno is ready for it, and we believe there will be no doubt about that.

At the meeting of the Congregational ministers of San Francisco and vicinity, which was held in Pacific Theological Seminary, in Berkeley, on Monday, the Rev. J. R. Knodell gave a paper on "Ministers Out of the Ministry." It was a valuable paper and one from which considerable good doubtless would come if it were published. Mr. Knodell believes in a Divine call to the ministry, and if any

man in it finds that he has not been called of God to the work he should quit it. He believes also that the church is under obligation to provide work and support for its ministry. It was shown that the increased expense in living made continuance in the work very difficult for many men latterly. Yet, this did not in the opinion of the writer of the paper excuse any one for abandoning it. The position taken was that no man who is really called of God to the work should ever abandon it and turn to some other pursuit except on account of failing health. The man who thinks of entering the ministry should know that it means a life of sacrifice and once putting his hand to the plow he should turn not backward. To do so exerts a bad influence on others and it is detrimental to a man's own spiritual life. In the course of the paper the great inequality in compensation was mentioned as something which ought not to be, and it was shown how the country churches and the churches in the small towns had helped to build up the city churches and were still aiding in making them what they are. In the discussion which followed the reading of the paper, some expressed the thought that Mr. Knodell took an extreme view as to what should constitute good and sufficient cause for leaving the ministry. If it be true that in God's sight a man is not excusable for quitting the work because of inadequate support for himself and family, the churches should remember that sin lies at their doors.

AMONG THE CHURCHES.

Palermo and Wyandotte.—The Rev. H. A. Shearer, who resigned recently at Pescadero, has taken charge of the churches at Palermo and Wyandotte. While at Pescadero Mr. Shearer started a paper called "The Golden West." He will continue its publication at Palermo.

Avalon.—The pastor, Rev. Chas. W. Williams, reports the large congregations characteristic of the "season," and announces that the remodelled church will be rededicated August 12th. Dr. W. F. Day and Mrs. Day have been spending some weeks here. Dr. Day preached at the morning service July 15th.

Redwood.—At a business meeting of our church held Thursday night, it was voted to build an addition to the church in order to give better accommodation for our growing Sunday-school. The amount of money to be raised is $800. Since the earthquake we have been worshiping in the Baptist Church, but we hope before many months more to have our building reconstructed with the needed addition. The interior will be ceiled throughout and will present a far more attractive appearance than it has ever done before. The cause of The Pacific has already been presented to our people, and will be put before them later more effectively in conjunction with the movement of the Santa Clara Association.

Escondido.—The church has had a very prosperous year under the wise and efficient leadership of the Rev. G. F. Mathes, Ph.D., who, with his wife, came to this church last September. His pulpit ministrations have ever been helpful and encouraging and the series of historical sermons on "The Great Religious and Denominational Leaders," given on Sunday evenings, has proved very helpful and instructive. A very encouraging feature of the present pastorate has been the large attendance at the evening srvices. The Sunday School has been re-organized along modern lines, the "C. E." Society has been wide awake, and has doubled its membership in the last six months, has provided 50 copies of "Sacred Songs" and a new $400 piano for use in the church. the "Aid Society," working in sections, has in the treasury a sufficient sum to purchase new Hymnals for the church services. The Missionary Society has maintained regular meetings, with increased interest and enthusiasm; and there have been 22 additions to the church membership. In recognition of the faithful work done the church has granted the pastor a five weeks' vacation.

CURRENT EVENT AND COMMENT.

By the payment of $1 Thomas A. Edison, the inventor and electrician, came into possession of the farm at Milan, Erie county, O., upon which he was born and reared. The deed transferring the property to him was given by the granddaughter of his sister.

"Were I asked to chose the three finest cities in Europe," says Rev. F. E. Clark, D.D., in the Christian Endeavor World, "I should name Stockholm, Geneva and Budapest; and the greatest of these (the largest, at least) is Budapest. I like these three cities, too, because they have no visible slums. There are poor people in them, of course, but little grinding, ragged, filthy, leprous squalor, such as is found in many of the world's great capitals. This is the more remarkable in Budapest since it ranks as one of the world's largest cities, with well on to a million inhabitants, and in all great aggregations of men we expect to find hopeless, wretched poverty."

Rev. S. G. Wright, who died recently at Oberlin, Ohio, has long been known in Oberlin as "Missionary" Wright, because of his long service in that line of work in the West and South. He was born at Pompey, N. Y., July 21, 1816. When fourteen years old the family moved to Medina, O. In the later thirties young Wright studied in Oberlin for a time, but his zeal for immediate gospel work cut his studies short before graduation. In 1843 he went to Red Lake in Northern Minnesota, then practically farther away than China is now, and took up service among the Ojibway Indians. When the war broke out Mr. Wright turned to the more urgent needs of the freedmen. Before the Freedmen's Bureau was organized he labored among "the contrabands," who flocked in great numbers to the Union armies. In the Mississippi region, and later on the Atlantic coast, as teacher, chaplain, organizer and friend, he gave some years to the needs of the colored people. After the war Mr. Wright again renewed his labors among the Indians. After the suspension caused by the Minnesota Indian war he again, and this as late as 1878, went back to the Northwest. But multiplying years finally brought him, in 1889, to remain at home, except for occasional special trips.

We are getting a new press in running order. The Pacific for July 26th is very late. It is not likely that the paper for August 2d will be mailed earlier than Saturday of that week or on Monday, the 6th.

Subscribers who have sent us money during the last week may not find the dates changed on the lables before the 15th of August.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE PACIFIC.

During the weeks since the 18th of April hundreds of persons have taken occasion by letter and otherwise to express their appreciation of The Pacific, their sympathy for it in its struggles, and the hope that an agency so valuable to all our Congregational interests would not be allowed to suspend publication. Such letters continue to come. We have not quoted from any for some time, but desire at this time to make quotation from two received a few days ago. One subscriber in Seattle, writing to call attention to the fact that she had paid her subscription a short time before the fire, says: "I like your little paper with its grand inspiring thoughts and am glad that it is not to die. Neither earthquakes nor fiery trials can kill a thing that is destined to live as The Pacific doubtless is. God bless its Editor and give him wisdom and fulness of days for his chosen work." Another, who lives in a rural region in California, sends $5.25 for a renewal for one year, and addresses The Pacific as follows, her thought going back to the 18th of April: "I was rejoiced to see you again, after a week's absence, many had been my queries as to what had been your fate in the great calamity. But was unable to find out anything concerning it until you came and spoke for yourself. I thought I had a full appreciation of your value before, but after a week's absence I found it greatly increased. I then resolved my subscription price for this year should be five dollars, hoping others might be the same and more. And am pleased to know my hope has been realized in many cases."

We feel confident that this money has not come easily to the one who sends it to us, which gives the act added value.

During the last two weeks the editor and manager of The Pacific has been under greater stress and strain than at any other time since the great disaster. Had it not been that so many letters similar to these two had been received since the 18th of April, courage would have faltered and perhaps failed. But today the conviction is as strong as it ever was that the paper must be maintained and that some way will be found to maintain it. We believe that the $10,000 fund will be raised; that The Pacific will own its own printing plant; that this will be the nucleus for an endowment which will increase with the years, and that The Pacific will go on its way, a blessing and a help to this western world.

QUAINT PRAYERS.

The chief of the Leslies is said to have prayed before a battle: "Be on our side. An gin ye canna be on our side. aye lay low a bit, and ye'll see thae carles gat a-hidin' that must please ye." An old covenanter, who ruled his household with a rod of iron, is said to have prayed in all sincerity at family worship: "O Lord, hae a care o' Rob, for he is on the great deep, an' theu holdest it in the hollow o' thy hand. An' hae a care o' Jamie, for he hae gone to fight the enemies o' his country, an' the outcome o' the battle is wi' thee. But ye need na fash o' yersel' wi' wee Willy, for I hae him here, an' I'm cawpable o' lookin' after him mysel' "

Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good citizens.—Daniel Webster.

The Christian is like a little child walking between Christ and the world, one hand to hold by and one to help by.

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